

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

1. A bone plate comprising;
a fixation plate defining at least one through bore through which
at least one screw is inserted to fix the plate to a bone, and a lock plate,
wherein the lock plate has a sliding engagement with the fixation
plate and is longitudinally adjustable from a first position in which the
through bore is accessible to the screw to a second position in which
the lock plate retains the screw from backing out of the bone.
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2. A bone plate as set forth in claim 1, wherein one said lock
plate and said fixation plate have a channel which receives the other of
said lock plate and said fixation plate to form said sliding engagement.
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3. A bone plate as set forth in claim 2, wherein said channel
includes a dovetail, which receives a flange.
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4. A bone plate as set forth in claim 3, wherein the lock plate
includes a boss, which cooperates with a recess in the fixation plate to
secure the lock plate to the fixation plate.
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- 3/* 5. A bone plate as set forth in claim *4*, wherein the lock plate
includes a slit to define a leaf spring which includes said boss.
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4. A bone plate as set forth in claim 5, wherein the boss is on the underside of the lock plate.
5. A bone plate as set forth in claim 4, wherein the sliding connection is formed by providing opposing shoulders in the top of the fixation plate so as to define a guide way for the lock plate.
10. A bone plate as set forth in claim 7, wherein the guide way includes opposing undercuts to restrain the locking plate vertically as well as laterally.
15. A bone plate as set forth in claim 9, wherein the recess is formed on the top side of the fixation plate.
20. A bone plate as set forth in claim 9, wherein said fixation plate further includes a first recess which receives the boss to hold the lock plate in the first position and a second recess which receives the boss to hold the lock plate in the second position.
21. A bone plate as set forth in claim 10, wherein said screw has a step cut head.

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~~10~~ 12. A bone plate as set forth in claim ~~1~~, wherein said bone plate includes multiple screws and said lock plate can simultaneously lock multiple screws into position.

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